

Although a computer system with one or more active backplanes have been disclosed, other suitable network architectures may be used. Further, although the present invention has been described with reference to analog television, the invention will also work with Advanced Television (ATV), also known as Digital Television (DTV). ATV, which incorporates the technologies known as High-Definition Television (HDTV) and Standard Digital Television (SDTV). ATV supports new caption features such as multiple caption streams (enabling viewers to choose between different languages or different reading levels), a wider range of character sizes, fonts, and colors, and increased flexibility regarding caption placement. In such an embodiment, multiple language audio streams can be searched and played in response to a user request.

While the invention has been shown and described with reference to particular embodiments, those skilled in the art will understand that the above and other changes in form and detail may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for synchronizing a multimedia segment of a signal stream, the signal stream having an audio component and a closed caption text component, the method comprising:

locating in the text component a marker text string, the marker text string being one of a set of text strings, each text string in the set made up of at least one word, phrase, or character;

generating an audio pattern representative of the located marker text string;

locating the audio pattern in the audio component; and

temporally aligning the closed caption text component with the audio pattern in the audio component.